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#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "The big one is here; it's Grizzly-Bobcat time in Missoula" (1968). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 4131.  
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# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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10-31-68  
sports one & football

### THE BIG ONE IS HERE; IT'S GRIZZLY-BOBCAT TIME IN MISSOULA

MISSOULA---

In nature, a fight between a grizzly bear and a bobcat wouldn't be much of a contest. Chances are, if the bobcat didn't run away, he would put up a token scrap before being destroyed.

But in football, it can be a different story. When the University of Montana Grizzlies meet the Montana State University Bobcats Saturday in Missoula, anything could happen.

Game time Saturday in the battle for the mythical state championship at Dornblaser Stadium is 1:30 p.m. A sellout crowd of more than 11,300 fans is anticipated, as all tickets were sold more than one week ago.

Although the Grizzlies have a big edge in the overall series, which will feature its 68th renewal Saturday, the Bobcats have dominated the series since 1955. In the last 12 meetings, the Grizzlies have won only twice. Since the series began in 1897, Montana has won 42 and Montana State 20. There have been five ties.

Montana State will be trying to tie its previous record for consecutive victories over the Grizzlies. From 1899 through 1903, the Cats won six straight, something they haven't done since. They have five straight going into Saturday's game.

Montana boasts the longest winning streak in the series. From 1933 through 1946, the Grizzlies copped 10 straight. From 1904 through 1955, Montana won 37 of 46 contests.

By using comparative scores, both teams could come out as favorites. Montana State beat Idaho 17-14 and Idaho State 31-14. Montana lost to Idaho 56-45 and to Idaho State 23-13. On Montana's side, the Grizzlies clobbered Portland State 58-0, while the Cats could manage only a 17-6 win over the Vikings.

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Montana State has more than a consecutive win record riding on this game. Should the Cats win, they will have a shot at a tie for the Big Sky Conference title. A loss would all but eliminate them from any title hopes.

The Grizzlies have pride at stake, and this could neutralize the factors going for the Bobcats. Not only have the Grizzlies failed to win in the past five meetings with Montana State, but they have also had a disappointing season when they were expected to have a great one. They hope to improve their 2-4 record and their chances for a winning 5-4 season, which would require victories over Montana State, Weber State and Northern Arizona, all toughies.

The Grizzlies will be facing one of the finest option quarterbacks anywhere in senior Dennis Erickson. Although Erickson hasn't picked up the rushing yardage he did last year, he has passed for more than 1,100 yards, with his favorite targets being flanker Ron Bain and split end Bill Fieldstead, both seniors.

Montana will also have to contain sophomore tailback Paul Schafer, who is threatening to become the first sophomore in MSU history to gain more than 1,000 yards rushing in one season. Schafer leads the Big Sky Conference with 859 yards in seven games.

Montana Coach Jack Swarthout has been pushing his Grizzlies hard during the past two weeks, with game scrimmages held for nearly one hour daily for five straight practice sessions. One result was the loss of second-string quarterback Pete Mullins, who sustained two broken ribs Tuesday and will probably be out for the remainder of the season.

Other Grizzlies who have been out with injuries should be ready to go this week, although most will not be at full speed. Included in this group are fullback Rick Strauss, defensive tackle Ole Hedstrom and tailback Gartha Morgan, all out with leg injuries. Roy Robinson, converted from tailback to fullback, should be at his best strength of the year after nursing leg injuries.

Offensively, Swarthout expects to start senior tight end Jim Kelly of Seattle, Wash.; junior strong tackle Bill Gutman of Seattle; senior strong guard Butch Ortiz of Monterey Park, Calif.; senior center Rick Sparks of Butte; senior quick guard Lon Howard of Centralia, Wash.; junior quick tackle Tuufuli Uperesa of Honolulu, Hawaii; junior split end Al



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Luis of Orland, Calif.; junior quarterback Ray Brum of Honolulu; junior tailback Mike Buzzard of Mt. Vernon, Wash.; junior slotback Doug Bain of Kalispell, and junior fullback Robinson of Glasgow.

On defense for Montana, starters should be senior left end Herb White of Ecorse, Mich.; sophomore left tackle Jim Nordstrom of Vancouver, Wash.; sophomore middle guard Larry Stranahan of Missoula; junior right tackle Ron Garske of Chico, Calif.; sophomore right end Tim Gallagher of Kalispell; senior left linebacker Bob Beers of Beaverton, Ore.; senior right linebacker Greg Paresa of Kahului, Hawaii; sophomore left halfback Pat Schruth of Billings; sophomore right halfback Bob Guptill of Great Falls; senior left safety Mick O'Neill of Walla Walla, Wash., and senior right safety Mace Gray of Baltimore, Md.

Bobcat offensive starters for Coach Tom Parac will be junior tight end Rob Stiff; junior strong tackle John Winchell; senior strong guard Tony Welzenbach; junior center Gene Wasia; sophomore quick guard Dan Korber; sophomore quick tackle Hank Sheer; senior split end Fieldstead; senior quarterback Erickson; sophomore tailback Schafer; senior flanker Bain, and sophomore fullback Hans Pidino.

Defensively, Bobcat starters should be sophomore left end Gary Gustafson; senior left tackle Purnal Whitehead; sophomore middle guard Rick Bean; sophomore right tackle Rocky Tope; senior right end Bob Womack; senior left linebacker Ray Becky; senior right line-backer Don Valerio; junior left halfback Dean Winder; senior right halfback Sandy Coopridier; senior safety Terry Brown, and senior rover back Jon McElroy.